

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O



For Release:
December 13, 2001

Contact: Sean Conway
(202) 224-6207
Kelly Brady
(202) 224-5946

ROCKY FLATS WILDLIFE REFUGE BILL GAINS FINAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL ALLARD-UDALL LEGISLATION PART OF DOD AUTHORIZATION BILL

Washington, D.C. – Legislation sponsored by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) and Colorado Second District U.S. Representative Mark Udall to turn Rocky Flats into a wildlife refuge following its cleanup and closure in 2006 gained final congressional approval today with the passage of Department of Defense (DOD) Authorization Bill.

“Congress has given Coloradans a early Christmas present.” Allard said following the passage of the bill. “This is a great day for everyone who has worked long and hard to preserve this area as open space for our children and grandchildren.”

Allard and Colorado Second District U.S. Representative Mark Udall introduced the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act earlier this year after working with local citizens and elected officials for more than two years to determine the best post-closure use of Rocky Flats. The legislation has been endorsed by Colorado Governor Bill Owens, Attorney General Ken Salazar and the Rocky Flats Council of Governments (RFCLOG).

“We have a lot of work ahead of us before we can turn Rocky Flats over to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Department to be managed as a national wildlife refuge,” added Allard. “Rocky Flats must first be completely cleaned up and closed. My hope is that we can accomplish that by 2006, but in order to meet that goal we must continue the progress we have made over the last few years toward clean up of the facility.”

President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law next week.

###